

BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

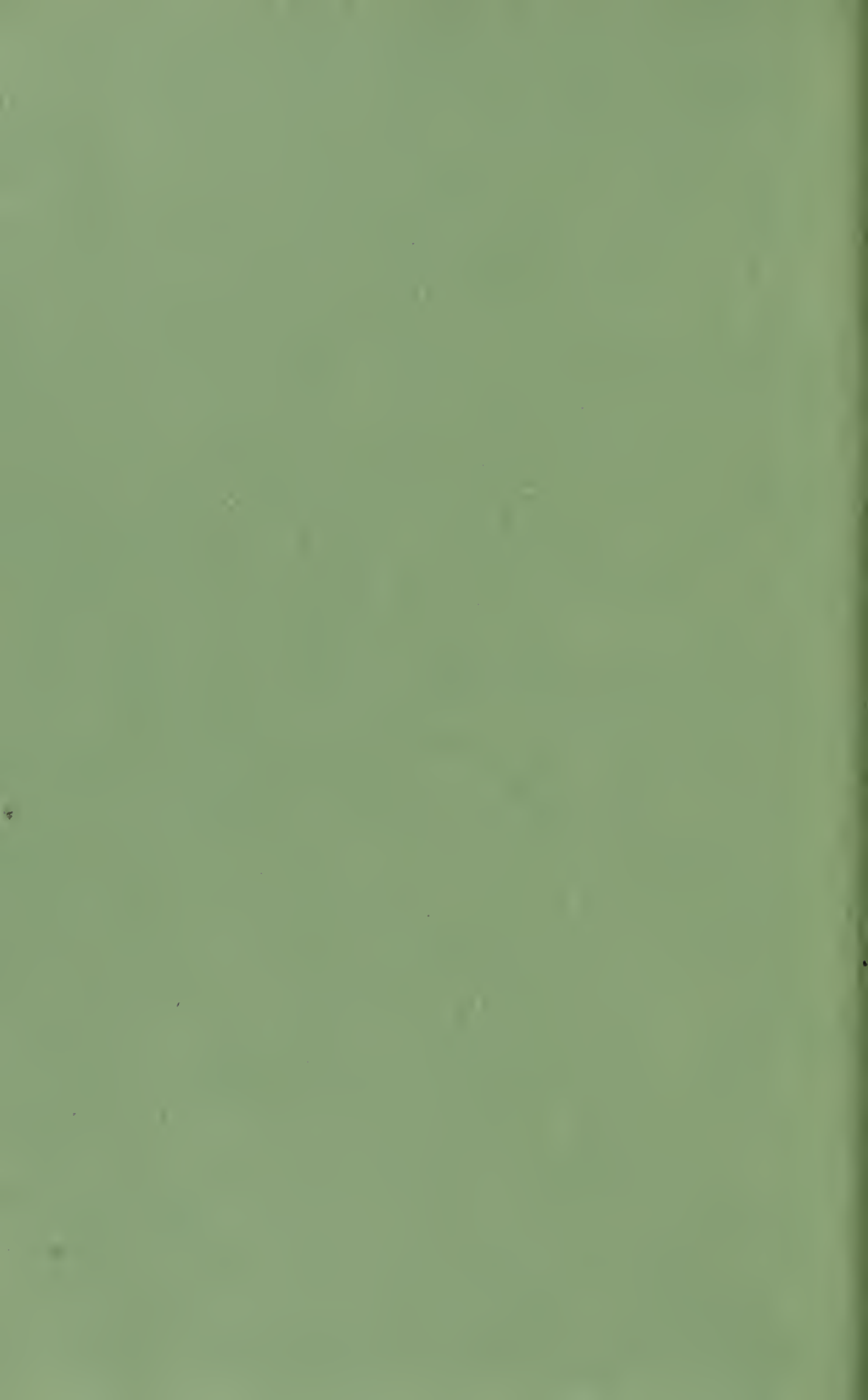
AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Services,

1948



Chairman of Health Committee:
Councillor Dr. F. R. ROBERTS.

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor R. C. BAKER, J.P

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):
DR. T. S. PATERSON, M.D.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.,
Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods.
Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.
Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as
applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

- (1) V. F. PENN, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
- (2) K. BLOWER, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Clerks:

EAN MARKLEW (H.M. Forces).
GEOFFREY CROWE (H.M. Forces).
MAISIE COLLINGWOOD (Temporary).

Handyman:

S. WRIGHT.

Rodent Operative:

E. MARKLEW.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1948

Health Department
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my Report for 1948. It follows the pattern suggested by the Minister of Health.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £66,433. The sum represented by a penny rate is £240.

POPULATION

The population is 21,360, giving a population per acre of 3.38. The increase is so slight as to be almost negligible, being only 100 more than last year.

The attempts to provide adequate housing accommodation for the people remain inadequate. Whilst, undoubtedly, pro-

gress is being made, the rate is too slow and overcrowding remains an urgent problem.

This state of affairs is rendered worse by the influx into the district of blood relations and their families whose housing problems have been unsolved elsewhere, and who seek shelter in the homes of their parents, already occupied to capacity.

The ex-Servicemen with their wives and families experience in full measure the strain of sharing houses with others—one reflection of which is seen in the growing number of nervous and frustrated individuals to-day.

The other health services, in my view, depend on the speedy solution of the housing problem.

The following is a summary of the houses built in 1948:				
Prefabricated bungalows by the Local Authority	...			80
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	11
Permanent houses by the Local Authority	...			57

Although good progress has been made the number is insufficient for our requirements.

STATEMENT BY MR. ARTHUR WIKELEY, M.I.Mun.E.,
ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR TO THE COUNCIL, FOR
INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

“ TOWN PLANNING

On the 1st July, 1948, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, came into operation. This Act revolutionised the powers of Local Authorities in planning matters, and introduced not only positive planning but state control of land values. Whilst, as I pointed out last year, the County Council now becomes the Planning Authority, the local Council have delegated powers under Part 3 of the Act and,

generally, the amount of work to be executed by my Department in this sphere has increased threefold. During the year more factories have been established and enquiries concerning others have come to hand. I would stress that though the new Act may, in the early stages, create hardships, planning control is intended to give and, in fact, will give with proper administration, the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Thanks to the work done by the Health Department in ridding the district of Ashpits, Pail Closets and the like, the number of dustbins to be emptied continues to rise. The Council have placed an order for a modern type of Refuse Collector which should be in service early in 1949. At the same time I hope to improve on the collection of wet pails and ash-pit refuse. Unfortunately it has not been possible to progress concerning the establishment of a controlled central tip but this matter is in hand.

SEWERAGE

The sewerage system of the district is still far below the capacity required, and continues to be adversely affected by mining subsidence. It is to be hoped that good for the district will be forthcoming as the result of the visit of the Government's Committee on Mining Subsidence. One sewer extension has been carried out during the year. Two major works have also been completed (as outlined in my report on the sewerage of the district). Firstly some two miles of the Fordbrook has been cleaned out at a cost of approximately £2,000, and secondly new outfall sewers have been laid to the Walsall Wood works, and this has permitted the putting into operation of the grit chambers at the disposal works. This has also resulted in the increase in the size of the outfall sewers

from, in part, 6in. to 15in. thereby for the first time allowing all sewage to pass to the disposal works.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Norton Canes purification works have functioned satisfactorily during the year, the effluent from these works has continued to be of a high standard. The Walsall Wood works have continued to be a source of grave concern to me but improvements have been made. The 100ft. percolating distributor has been completely refitted but still has to work continuously. The grit chambers have been adapted to enable them to be put into use, and whilst they must have manual attention, will greatly improve the treatment of the sewage. I have to report that, unfortunately, subsidence continues in the neighbourhood of these works.

Generally, I am glad to be able to report that since taking up my appointment in October, 1946, considerable improvement has taken place in all the services mentioned, and whilst this gives me some measure of satisfaction, it is of more importance that, with continued support from the Council, improvements which I have already outlined will increase still more, with ultimate benefit to the state of the district and the health of its inhabitants."

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The principal industry is mining. Several new factories have started in the district at which female labour is mostly employed. Just outside the boundary at Walsall Wood there are several brickworks at which inhabitants are employed.

BIRTHS, 1948

Live Births—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	197	...	189	...	386
Illegitimate	...	...	2	...	5	...	7
							<hr/>
Total						...	393
							<hr/>

			Male.		Female.		
Still Births—							
Legitimate	...	...	7	...	11	...	18
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
							<hr/>
				Total	...		18
							<hr/>

The total number of births gives a birth rate of 18.4 per thousand of the population, as compared with 17.9 for England and Wales.

Still Births numbered 18, none of which were illegitimate. This gives a Still Birth Rate of 0.84 per thousand of the population. For England and Wales the rate is 0.42. For 126 Great Towns and London the rate is 0.52 and for 148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to 50,000 population at 1931 census) it is 0.43.

Of the total legitimate births 197 were males and 189 females. 18 births were illegitimate.

DEATHS, 1948.

Deaths numbered 190 — 104 males and 86 females.

This shows a death rate of 8.8 per thousand.

The rate for England and Wales is 10.8 per thousand of the population.

The Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand live births is 40.7. Although showing a slight increase, this compares very favourably with previous years.

Deaths of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births is 41.4.

There are no illegitimate deaths recorded.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

Deaths from Measles ... Nil.

Deaths resulting from Whooping Cough ... 1

Deaths resulting from Diarrhoea under two years 1

The number of deaths for 1948 and the two previous years is given in the following table:

DEATHS.

Cause	Male	Female	1948 Total	1947	1946
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.. .. .	—	1	1	—	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	5	8	9
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1	4	2
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	1	—
Influenza	3	2	5	1	4
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis..	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	1	1	2	3	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	3	7	4	5
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1	2	4
Cancer of other sites	10	5	15	19	17
Diabetes	—	1	1	—	1
Intracranial vascular diseases	17	7	24	14	28
Heart Diseases	25	35	60	54	67
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	—	5	4	4
Bronchitis	4	6	10	12	17
Pneumonia.. .. .	1	6	7	5	10
Other respiratory diseases	6	—	6	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1	3	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	1
Other digestive diseases	2	1	3	4	3
Nephritis	1	1	2	4	3
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	1	2	5	5
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries ..	6	4	10	7	5
Suicide	—	—	—	3	—
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3	4	3
Other violent causes	3	2	5	2	4
All other causes	9	5	14	26	18
All causes	104	86	190	190	221

DEATHS — AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Over 70	Total
16	4	2	1	1	4	9	13	21	33	86	190

Under one year there were 16 deaths.

63% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.

37% were under 60 years.

The causes of death show little variation. It is noteworthy that no death has resulted from Diphtheria. It is manifest that the nation wide intensive immunisation scheme has borne fruit over the last two years.

The general practitioners and the welfare centres in the area have loyally carried out the Ministry's suggestions respecting immunisation both as regards propaganda and treatment.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Cause	Under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Congenital Heart Disease ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Debility ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hæmorrhage ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	4
Gastro-Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atelactasis ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Biliary Cirrhosis ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Status Lymphaticus ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total									16

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Number.	Rate.
1939	16	40.6
1940	17	40.6
1941	21	53.1
1942	27	62.0
1943	26	62.3
1944	28	60.3
1945	31	83.5
1946	19	41.9
1947	16	30.8
1948	16	40.7

The following Table is inserted for comparison :

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1948. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Rates per 1,000 Civilian population					
Births:—					
Live Births ..	17.9 *	20.0	19.2	20.1	18.4
Still Births ..	0.42 *	0.52	0.43	0.39	0.84
Deaths:—					
All causes ..	10.8 *	11.6	10.7	11.6	8.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.04
Diphtheria ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Influenza ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.23
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia ..	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54	0.00
Tuberculosis ..	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63	0.28
Notifications:—					
Typhoid Fever ..	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever ..	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37	4.2
Whooping Cough ..	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13	6.8
Diphtheria ..	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.00
Erysipelas ..	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.28
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17	14.04
Pneumonia ..	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57	1.21
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04
Acute Encephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Deaths:—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All causes under 1 year of age.	34 †	39	32	31	40.7
Enteritis and Diarr- hoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4	2.5
	Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				
Notifications:—					
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34‡	2.43
† Per 1,000 related births.	‡ In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61				

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births,	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis . . .	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis . . .	0.05	4
147 Puerperal Infections . . .	0.13	
142-146 } Other Maternal Causes . . .	0.73	
148-150 }		
Brownhills:—Nil in each case		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of Dysentery, Acute Poliomyelitis, Typhoid or Paratyphoid were notified. No cases of Diphtheria were notified. There was one case of Puerperal Pyrexia, and one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles	11	140	121	11	6	5	5	1	—	—	—	300
Whooping Cough	12	90	42	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	147
Scarlet Fever	1	22	46	11	4	4	1	1	—	—	—	90
Pneumonia	3	6	5	1	—	4	—	3	2	1	1	26
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	6
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

The subsidence at Clayhanger still gives rise to anxiety. The threat of flooding is not a remote possibility. In this connection we are perhaps fortunate in having had so dry a summer. In bad weather sewage is discharged through the manhole at the corner of Bridge Street and High Street. A temporary drainage system dealing with this is insufficient. Sewage eventually finds its way into the flood water on either side of the highway.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 "	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 to 20 "	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 to 30 "	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 to 40 "	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
40 to 50 "	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
50 to 60 "	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
60 to 70 "	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10	5	1	1	3	2	—	1

One case notified during 1948 died during the year.

The difficulties of housing Tuberculosis patients are mounting. Many patients who, in the past, would have been admitted to Sanatoria are now being nursed at home. Until the shortage of staff has been dealt with at the Sanatoria this problem is likely to remain with us.

In this connection I would remind the Housing Committee of the need for co-operation with the Sanitary Department in

the allocation of Council houses, and to restore to the Sanitary Department the privileges which existed in former years. The housing of Tuberculosis patients where overcrowding presents an additional complication is too obvious to require fuller explanation.

HOSPITALS

The Council no longer contributes to local Nursing Associations. These now function under the National Health Service Scheme and continue to do excellent work. The local District Nurses co-operate fully with the Sanitary Department.

Bacteriological and Clinical examinations are for the most part done at Stafford Laboratory.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Hospitals serve the district as regards Surgical, Medical and Specialised Departments.

Under the National Health Service, Hammerwich Cottage Hospital, when fully equipped, will play a more important part in the future. In this connection a more satisfactory 'bus service to pass the hospital appears indicated.

Wissage Isolation Hospital—there are indications that this will cease to function in its present capacity and other arrangements are being made for the isolation of infectious cases.

The Ambulance Services are now under the Control of the County.

The Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Clinics are also administered by the County.

FOOD HYGIENE

Since 1939 the standard of cleanliness in the handling of food has fallen considerably. This will be the subject for further discussions by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A brochure on this matter has already been circulated, and is dealt with more fully in his own report.

'BUS SHELTERS

This matter crops up from time to time. Whilst no results are so far visible, I believe the matter is under discussion.

Meantime, there is no shelter between the Council Offices, Brownhills, and Streets Corner, Walsall Wood.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the help and loyal co-operation I have had from the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

My thanks are also due to Mrs. Collingwood for help in preparing the statistics and the report for the printers.

Yours faithfully,

T. S. PATERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN, MRS. JACKSON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Third Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Urban District.

New legislation continues to change the local government scene and it is hoped that the anticipated improvements in social services will fully materialise. On the other hand one cannot help but feel that the transference of powers from district councils to larger authorities may not always be advantageous.

Town Planning, as envisaged by the 1947 Act, is beginning to take shape, but the delays in obtaining planning approval retard new house construction and improvements to existing property. We all bow to progress and we all work for the improvement of living conditions, but I would enter a plea for a stream-lining of planning procedure. People have lived too long in overcrowded and insanitary conditions. They have the right and desire to live in a house free from sanitary defects and provided with modern amenities. There should be no delay in achieving these ends.

The shortage of new houses and of building materials in general, continue to affect the rate at which housing improvements are achieved, but after giving due weight to these difficulties I can record that progress has been made.

The valued support of the Council and the willing co-operation of the officers of the Council are essential to good local government and are much appreciated by my department.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PART I — STAFF

Mr. E. Marklew and Mr. Geoffrey Crowe, who are on the staff as junior clerks and student Sanitary Inspectors, are still on Military Service. Mrs. M. Collingwood is employed as temporary clerk.

Mr. K. Williams, who was employed as temporary clerk and assistant, is now on full time training for qualification as a Sanitary Inspector under the special scheme for the training of ex-Servicemen.

Mr. K. Blower replaced Mr. E. J. Faulkner as Second Additional Sanitary Inspector with Mr. V. F. Penn continuing as First Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Students who are ex-Servicemen from the full time post-war Training Course held in Birmingham, visit this authority for practical experience.

PART II — WATER SUPPLY

The public supply for the district is obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Colliery subsidence remains a threat to the water mains so the systematic sampling of the public supply for bacteriological examination was continued. During the year 599 samples were submitted for examination. Fifteen of these samples were of well water and twelve of these results were unsatisfactory.

Extensions to the public mains supply completed during the year resulted in six houses at Green Lane, Walsall Wood, and six houses at Commonsides, Brownhills, being provided with a piped supply in lieu of well water. The estimated costs were £475 and £575 respectively.

Two other houses were connected to the public supply and the use of wells discontinued.

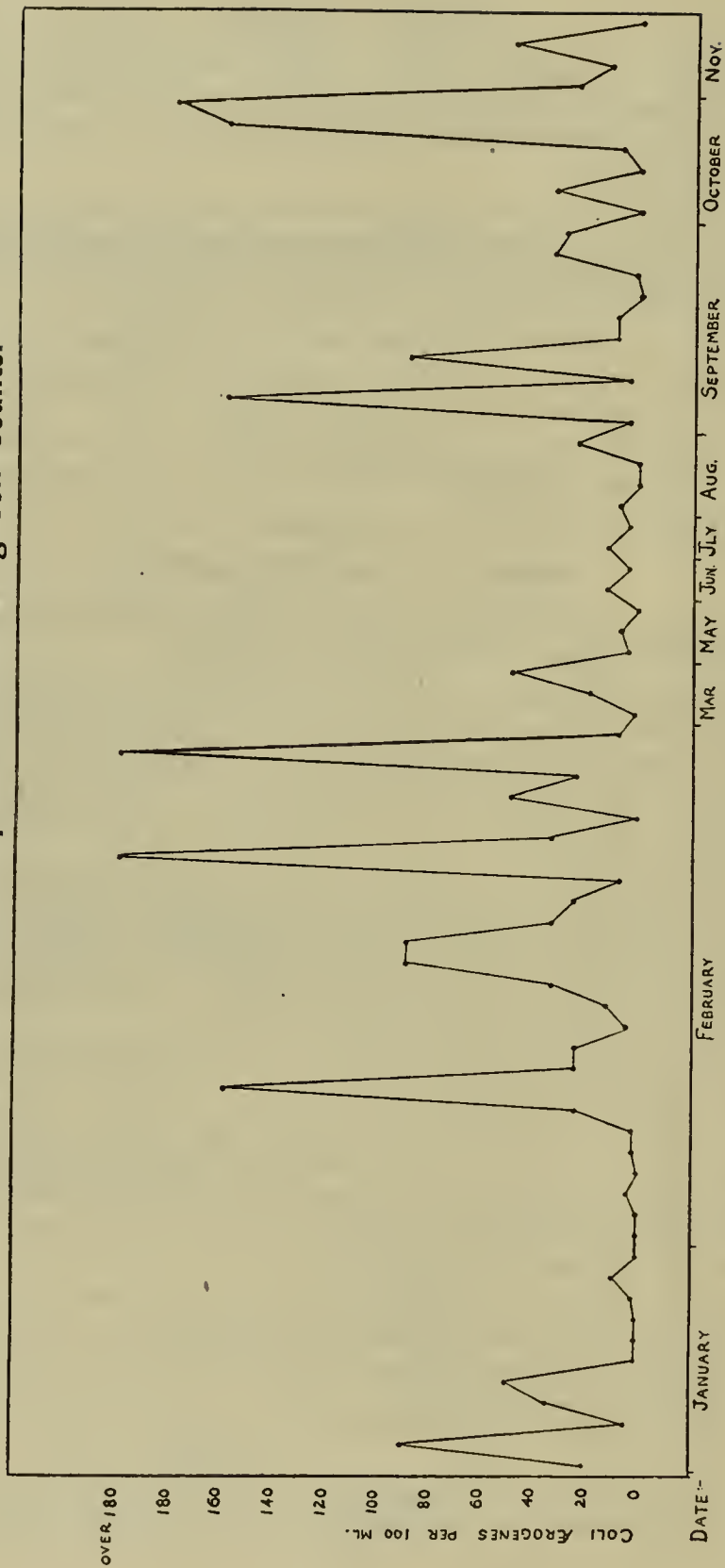
Of the 574 samples taken from the mains supply 504 showed no coli count and the remaining 70 had counts as shown on the attached graph. A full report on this subject was made in my Annual Report for 1947.

WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY :—

Total houses in district	...	...	...	5,594
Houses with direct piped water supply	...	...	...	5,519
Houses with stand pipes	...	...	...	32
Number of stand pipes	...	...	...	6
Houses with communal taps	...	...	...	43
Houses with wells	...	...	...	9

The following is a statement on the Water Supply to the Urban District, submitted by R. A. Robertson, Esq.,

NORTON CANES—MAINS SUPPLY, 1948
Graph of those Water Sample Results showing Coli Counts.



Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co.

(1) The supply of the area has been satisfactory in respect of quality and quantity.

(2) The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded in part from pumping stations situated outside the boundary of the Authority and in part from Sandhills Pumping Station within the boundary.

All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals, both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of all the raw waters. During 1948, 25 samples from Sandhills Pumping Station were examined, and all were free from coliform bacteria. Monthly routine samples were taken from the Waterman's house at Norton Canes, and from the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills; 12 samples examined from the former were all satisfactory, as were also the 12 examined from the Municipal Buildings. The 12 samples taken from No. 1, High Street, Clayhanger, were satisfactory.

During 1948, 1,667 samples were examined bacteriologically from areas in Norton Canes, where the mains were affected by mining subsidence; 98.6 per cent. of these were free from *Bacteria coli*. Chlorination of the service mains was introduced as necessary following burst mains.

The average chemical results for 1948 of the two tap samples from the Waterman's House, Norton Canes, and the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were as follows:—

	Norton Canes				Brownhills			
pH	7.6	..	parts per million	..	7.5		
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	80	..	" " "	..	123		
Chlorides (Cl)	15.1	..	" " "	..	25.2		
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Trace	..	" " "	..	Trace		
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace	..	" " "	..	Trace		
Oxidised Nitrogen	2.8	..	" " "	..	7.8		
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)12	..	" " "	..	.12		
Temporary Hardness	75	..	" " "	..	119		
Permanent Hardness	40.	..	" " "	..	105		
Total Hardness	115	..	" " "	..	224		
Iron (Fe)04	..	" " "	..	.03		
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	..	" " "	..	Nil		
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	..	" " "	..	Nil		
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	Nil	..	" " "	..	Nil		
Free Cl06	..	" " "	..	Nil		

(3) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any of the waters examined.

(4) Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised following burst mains, laying of new mains, and emptying of reservoirs. The repaired and new mains etc., are not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

PART III — SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

A survey made during the year gave the following information on this subject :-

(A) SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails.			Privy		
	To be converted.	For H.A. Action.	Total	To be converted.	For H.A. Action.	Total
Norton Canes (including Wyrley)	73	23	96	39	8	47
Brownhills West	7	—	7	3	—	3
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	1	1	2
Shelfield and High Heath ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	8	20	28	11	2	13
Totals	88	43	131	54	11	65

(B) SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privy
Norton Canes (including Wyrley)	47	30
Brownhills West	17	7
Walsall Wood	17	16
Shelfield and High Heath ..	4	1
Brownhills	22	3
Totals	107	57

76 conversions were carried out in 1948 making a total of 223 in the last three years.

I am pleased that the Council adopted the procedure of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and have pleasure in recording the appreciation of occupiers, owners and this Department at the results.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Number of houses	...	...	...	...	5,594
* Number of houses served water closets	...	...	...	...	5,103
Number of houses served privies	...	...	...	...	144
Number of houses served pails	...	...	...	...	249
Number of houses served bins	...	...	...	...	5,375

* NOTE. A few of the water closets are not provided with flushing apparatus and there is a small number of tipplers in use.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new sewerage scheme for Norton Canes, completed in 1939, is often affected by mining subsidence and several lengths have lost considerable fall due to the changes in topography. The sewage works give a satisfactory effluent and function well within their capacity.

The Walsall Wood works are scheduled for reconstruction (now in progress) and I look forward to an improvement in the state of the brook receiving the effluent. The sewage from Brownhills West, Brownhills, Clayhanger and Walsall Wood is conveyed through main sewers across an area subject to subsidence. The problems of the Engineer and Surveyor in this respect are unfortunately of a recurring nature.

Sheffield is sewered to Goscote Joint Board Sewage Works and small portions of Watling Street and Heath Hayes are drained to systems operated by Lichfield Rural District Council and Cannock Urban District Council respectively.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

This service is operated by the Engineer and Surveyor. There has been an improvement in the collection of the refuse but its disposal leaves much to be desired.

I wish to repeat that the tips are not “ controlled ” and that money should be earmarked for their re-organisation.

Consideration should be given to the question of Trade refuse and its collection, as the failure to remove such waste can be a nuisance on the premises and cause trouble by indiscriminate dumping on the tips.

PART 4 **SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING** **THE YEAR.**

Total Premises visited	8,491
Complaints received	271
Houses inspected—Public Health Act, Repairs	2,965
—Housing Act	35
—Verminous	42
—Overcrowding	58
—Sanitary Survey	1,322
—Dangerous Houses and Structures	69
Caravans	232
Ashplaces	71
Dustbins	708
Water Closets	351
Privy Middens	194
Pails	110
Conversions	294
Drains—choked or defective	367
—new and/or tested	250
Sewerage	32
Cesspools	60
Water Supply	241
Other Sanitary defects	69
Farms and Cowsheds	99
Dairies	91
Ice Cream premises	141
Butchers' Shops	74
Slaughterhouses	11
Fish Fryers	137
Food preparing premises	79
Bakehouses	18
Licensed premises	19
Factories and Outworkers	94
Keeping of Animals	218
Food Inspections	37
Shops Act Inspections	1
Disinfections and Disinfestations	47
Infectious Disease enquiries	89
Miscellaneous	467
Cinemas	1
Petroleum Spirit storage	3
Rodent Control	12
Samples—Ice Cream	81
—Water, bacteriological	622
—Water, chemical	3
—Sewage	9
—River Pollution	4

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices served	...	...	437
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	403

STATUTORY NOTICES.

Section.	Served.	Complied with.
Section 7 Factories Act/1937	1	1
Section 9 Housing Act/1936	4	—
Section 30 Water Act/1945	7	3
Section 39 Public Health Act/1936	6	13
Section 44 Public Health Act/1936	11	6
Section 45 Public Health Act/1936	13	13
Section 47 Public Health Act/1936	11	5
Section 56 Public Health Act/1936	2	1
Section 75 Public Health Act/1936	52	66
Section 92 and 93 Public Health Act/1936	58	63

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY NOTICES.

Act or section	Work author- ised in default.	Court Proceed- ings authorised	Notice complied with.		Proceedings instituted
			By Council	By Owner.	
Section 39.P.H.A/36	6	—	3	3	—
Sec. 45.P.H.A.36	6	—	4	2	—
Sec- 58.P.H.A/36	—	7	—	—	4
Sec. 75.P.H.A/36	3	—	3	—	—
Sec. 94.P.H.A/36	15	—	—	14	1
Sec. 138.P.H.A/36	—	—	—	—	—
and Water Act/45	1	—	1	—	—
Sec. 269.P.H.A/36	—	3	—	1	2

NOTES :—

Section 58, Public Health Act, 1936.

Proceedings were instituted in respect of four houses in a dangerous condition. Three cases were withdrawn as the owner undertook to repair immediately. One order to repair or demolish was made by the court. The repairs to three other houses are the subject of negotiations. Subsidence due to colliery workings is the cause of the houses becoming dangerous.

Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936.

Court action was taken in one case and a nuisance order was made.

Section 261, Public Health Act, 1936.

One caravan was removed before complaint was made, one owner undertook to cease to use land as a caravan site and one case was adjourned to allow the owner to clear the site.

PART V — HOUSING

For the purposes of discussion housing can be divided into sub-headings, but the crux of the whole problem still rests on that well worn ground the provision of new houses and the supply of materials. Unfortunately a large proportion of the people living in sub-standard houses will have to continue to be satisfied (or dissatisfied) with this type of accommodation until the housing situation has eased. The local authority

know of the houses which are beyond repair, they sympathise with the occupants and regret that their sympathy can only be shown in a tangible form to a small percentage per annum.

The Council have agreed that in the future one new house in fifteen will be used to re-house people from houses scheduled for demolition. This is barely an acknowledgment of the problem but it is a figure which it is hoped will be increased with time and progress and it is a sign of hope to those who wait.

PROCEDURE UNDER HOUSING ACTS

Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

The following houses were reported as occupied or of a type suitable for occupation by members of the working classes and unfit for human habitation, and incapable of being rendered so fit at a reasonable expense:—

37, 39, 41, 43, 45 and 47, Stokes Lane, Norton Canes;

47, Mosspits Farm, Fordbrook Lane, High Heath.

Demolition orders were made in respect of the houses Nos. 37-47, Stokes Lane, and an undertaking to discontinue the use as a human habitation was accepted in respect of 47, Mosspits Farm, Fordbrook Lane.

Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.

Four notices were served and in each case the work is in hand.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Mr. C. R. Gloss, F.I.Hsg., Housing Manager, has supplied the following information in respect of Council Houses:—

Prior to the late war:—

Act under which constructed.	Bedrooms			Bungalows			Totals
	Two	Three	Four				
1919 ...	—	250	—	...	—	...	250
1923 ...	—	154	—	...	—	...	154
1924 ...	92	158	—	...	—	...	250
1925 ...	102	344	30	...	6	...	482
1930 ...	44	56	30	...	—	...	130
Totals ...	238	962	60		6		1,266

Post war:—

1946							
Prefabs	50	—	—	...	—	...	50
Traditional	—	1	—	...	—	...	1
1947							
Traditional	4	36	—	...	—	...	40
1948							
Prefabs	80	—	—	...	—	...	80
Traditional	4	53	—	...	—	...	57
Totals ...	138	90	—		—	...	228

PART VI — FOOD HYGIENE

Slaughter of Animals.

The fourteen private slaughterhouses in the district had their licences renewed. Three of these slaughterhouses are used for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs as licensed by the Food Office.

The slaughter of animals for general consumption takes place at Walsall Public Abattoir.

Butchers' shops have been inspected and improvements have been carried out in several cases.

The following points are worthy of note:—

- (1) The "cottagers" pig as a rule escapes inspection and there is no legal power to compel the provision of facilities for inspection or to accept the advice of the meat inspector. With the present large number of private pigs a large amount of diseased meat is eaten by the community at large. One of the first duties of a Sanitary Inspector is to give advice and that advice is free and at the disposal of all private pig keepers.

- (2) The private slaughterhouses are not improving with lack of use and I am sure the owners of these establishments would appreciate some guidance as to the future policy of the government.

Centralisation of slaughtering has many advantages and all public health workers must feel that a return to the pre-war system would be a retrograde step.

A decision would enable local authorities who have no public abattoir to make suitable provision when planning development.

- (3) The hygienic distribution of meat is essential and although there have been improvements there is still room for more.

The following foodstuffs have been surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

22 tins Service Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	556 lbs.
4 tins Grapefruit	..	..	..	..	..	8 lbs.
69 tins Milk	..	..	..	..	..	69 lbs.
10 tins Peas	..	..	..	..	..	18 lbs.
20 Tubes Cods Roe Paste	..	..	..	..	..	5 lbs.
1 tin Ocean Whiting	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
4 tins Fish Paste	..	..	..	..	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
6 tins Salmon	..	..	..	..	..	4 lbs.
13 tins Baked Beans	..	..	..	..	..	12 lbs.
1 tin Mixed Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
2 tins Meat and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
1 tin Irish Stew	..	..	..	..	..	1 lb.
4 tins Stewed Steak	..	..	..	..	..	4 lbs.
4 tins Beef Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	3 lbs.
2 tins Pork	..	..	..	..	..	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
1 tin Veal Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
2 tins Minced Beef	..	..	..	..	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	24 lbs.
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	4 dozen.
1 tin Pineapple	..	..	..	..	..	2 lbs.
6 tins Apricots	..	..	..	..	..	15 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

(a) Ice Cream Premises.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream. Two of these manufacturers use a "Hot" Mix and one a "Cold" Mix.

Thirteen shops have been registered for the sale (only) of Ice Cream and eight of these confine their sales to pre-packed ices.

Two applicants for registration of premises appeared before the Health Committee to show cause why registration should not be refused. One was an application for the registration of premises for the manufacture of Ice Cream, and the Council granted this registration contrary to my recommendations, but the occupier has, of his own free will, ceased to manufacture. The other application was for the registration of premises for the sale of Ice Cream and this was refused by the Council.

76 samples of Ice Cream have been submitted to the laboratory for examination and the following table summarises the results:—

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES, 1948

Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue (Hours)	No. of samples reducing methylene blue.		
		Produced in district		Produced outside district
		"Hot Mix"	"Cold Mix"	"Hot Mix"
1	4½ or more	12 (54.6 %)	5 (38.5%)	8 (19.5%)
2	2½ - 4	4 (18.2%)	3 (23.0%)	6 (14.6%)
3	½ - 2	5 (22.7%)	4 (30.8%)	10 (24.4%)
4	0	1 (4.5%)	1 (7.7%)	17 (41.5%)
	Totals	22	13	41

It will be noted that a "hot mix" ice cream produced within the district gave best results. The poor results obtained in respect of ice cream produced outside the district indicates that deterioration occurs in transit. Further investigations on these lines are necessary before any definite conclusion is arrived at, as some of the ice cream is delivered in bulk to local retailers.

(b) Manufacture of Preserved Food, etc.

Twelve premises used in connection with Butchers' shops are registered for the manufacture of preserved food etc., although the amount of food dealt with is only in connection with their own trade, and consequently the business is on a relatively small scale.

(c) **Fish Fryers.**

Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of fried fish. Regular inspections have been made at these premises and except for minor details they were found to comply with our requirements. Defects have been remedied as required but I also regard fish frying in front rooms of houses as unsatisfactory although they comply with the law.

The Chief Inspector for Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following information in respect of samples taken by his Department:—

**DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT**

Nature of Sample.				No. taken.		Remarks.		
				Genuine	Not genuine			
Milk	..	..	..	9	2	Def. in	Fat.	Genuine
						below standard.		
Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	3	—			
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	4	—			
Milk Heat Treated	..	..	..	1	—			
Sausage	..	..	..	4	—			
Butter	..	..	..	3	—			
Cooking Fat	..	..	..	3	—			
Margarine	..	..	..	2	—			
Beef Broth	..	..	..	1	—			
Glycerine, Lemon and Honey	..	..	..	1	—			
Barley Kernels	..	..	..	1	—			
Self Raising Flour	..	..	..	1	—			
Semolina	..	..	..	1	—			
Ground Nutmeg	..	..	..	1	—			
Yankee Relish	..	..	..	1	—			
Gravy Browning	..	..	..	2	—			
Demarara Sugar	..	..	..	1	—			
Jelly Crystals	..	..	..	2	—			
Barley Flakes	..	..	..	1	—			
Cake Mixture	..	..	..	—	1	Contains dead mites. Stock destroyed.		
Bicarbonate of Soda	..	..	..	2	—			
Mixed Pickles	..	..	..	1	—			
Syrup of Figs	..	..	..	1	—			
Pea Soup Flavour	..	..	..	1	—			
Cream of Tartar B.P.	..	..	..	—	1	Portion of sample stained brown, presumably from brown interior of card- board container.		
Glauber Salts	..	..	..	—	2	Contained 99.2 per cent. Anhydrous Sodium Sul- phate. Not of B.P. standard.		
Coffee and Chicory Essence	..	..	..	1	—			
Cocoa	..	..	..	1	—			
Vermicelli	..	..	..	1	—			
Pudding and Flour Mixture	..	..	..	1	—			
Ground Arrowroot	..	..	..	1	—			
Compound Syrup of Figs	..	..	..	1	—			
Worcester Sauce	..	..	..	1	—			
Fish Paste	..	..	..	1	—			
Pickling Spice	..	..	..	1	—			
Compound Starch	..	..	..	1	—			
Stomach Powder	..	..	..	1	—			
Castor Oil	..	..	..	1	—			
Tea	..	..	..	1	—			
Sauce	..	..	..	1	—			
Pea Flour	..	..	..	1	—			
Beef Paste	..	..	..	1	—			
Health and Liver Salts	..	..	..	1	—			
Epsom Salts	..	..	..	1	—			

PRODUCERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK

There are 25 producers and 28 retailers within the district. Two farms are registered by the County Council for the production of Accredited milk and one for the production of Tuberculin Tested.

Several cowsheds and dairies have been improved and in two cases this has entailed complete re-construction.

Supplementary licences for the sale of designated milks have been granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	5

PART VII LICENSED PREMISES

Visits and inspections have been made at the Licensed Premises within the area and improvements to sanitary accommodation have been carried out at several of the premises. Generally speaking the Brewery Companies have expressed a willingness to provide suitable washing accommodation for glasses and preliminary notification has been sufficient to obtain the necessary results.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

89 visits of enquiry were made to cases of infectious disease and disinfections have been carried out as required. The disinfection of rooms is not carried out as a routine measure after all cases of notifiable disease.

RODENT CONTROL

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed to discharge the delegated powers of rodent control. A free service is provided for all private dwellings and the Council have always taken advantage of schemes formulated by the Ministry of Food in order to ensure that the necessary control is maintained.

Sewers, refuse tips, sewage works and other Council property have been treated at regular intervals and the results have been satisfactory, although these premises lend themselves to easy re-infestation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections have been made at all the factories within the area and a strict surveyance has been kept over new plans submitted, and over the construction of sanitary accommodation, as in a few cases it has been found that the resultant accommodation was not in accordance with the deposited plans. The co-operation of the Engineer and Surveyor has enabled contraventions to be discovered in good time and this has led to their early rectification.

Three certificates as to means of escape in case of fire have been granted under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	26	1	--
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	60	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	45	86	6	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	—	3	—
Total	6	6	—	6	—

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Three caravans are licensed to be stationed at specified locations. It will be noted that 232 visits have been made to caravans during the year, but this high number of visits has been in respect of caravans occupied by the gipsy fraternity who find the open common land convenient for their frequent halts. The sites they use are often left in an unsatisfactory state but it is impossible to find the culprits to ensure the necessary cleaning up.

MORTUARY

The mortuary has been maintained and improved so that it is now well-equipped and convenient for the police and the doctors in the area.

